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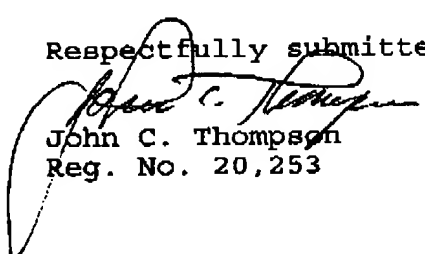
July 8, 2003. During the interview, amended claims 1 and 4 were discussed. It was pointed out that the disposable pipette tip, as claimed, does not have a tapered end as do the pipettes of Treptow and Dunipane. Accordingly, the examiner agreed that these references would not be applied.

New claim 8 was also discussed, this claim being a linking claim between method claims 6 and 7 and apparatus claims 1 - 5. Examiner Cross indicated that if claim 8 is a proper linking claim and if claims 1 - 5 are found to be allowable, the restriction requirement would be withdrawn.

Since the interview applicant has further considered the claims. Therefore, claims 1, 6, and 8 have been further amended to more clearly point out applicant's invention.

The examiner asked how the claims distinguish from d'Autry who discloses a calibrated glass tube. Claim 1 required a "disposable pipette tip" formed of "extruded plastic tubing". There is simply no teaching of this in the prior art. Other characteristics relating to this feature are also set forth which are not found in the prior art. Thus, claim 1 requires that the female receiver has a funnel shape for receiving the extruded plastic tip. This combination of features is not part of the prior art. In that the prior art cited and applied does not teach applicant's invention for the reasons set forth above, the allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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2 pages follow to show version with markings to show changes made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A pipette assembly having a small volume disposable tip capable of taking very small quantities of samples in an accurate manner, the pipette assembly being of an inexpensive construction, the pipette assembly comprising:

a suction device having a female ~~tip~~ receiver of a funnel shape for receiving disposable pipette tips; and

a disposable pipette tip formed of extruded plastic tubing which has relatively uniform inside and outside diameters throughout its length, the tubing being snugly received in the funnel shaped female ~~tip~~ receiver of the suction device.

4. (Twice Amended) A pipette assembly having a small volume disposable tip capable of taking very small quantities of samples in an accurate manner, the pipette assembly being of an inexpensive construction, the pipette assembly comprising:

a suction device having

a piston cylinder in the form of a narrow tube having a distal end,

a piston slidable within the piston cylinder, the piston being in the form of a thin wire having a distal end,

means to move the piston between extended and retracted positions, the distal end of the piston being adjacent the distal end of the piston cylinder when in the extended position whereby there is substantially no air within the piston cylinder when the piston is extended, and

a female ~~tip~~ receiver of a funnel shape for receiving disposable pipette tips, the female ~~tip~~ ~~received~~

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receiver being carried adjacent the distal end of the piston cylinder; and
a disposable pipette tip formed of extruded plastic tubing which has relatively uniform inside and outside diameters throughout its length, the tubing being snugly received in the female ~~tip~~ receiver of the suction device, with one end adjacent the piston cylinder.

6. (Amended) A method of ~~delivering~~ drawing up precise quantities of liquid samples in the range of 0.2 to ~~1.2~~ 2.0 μ l, said method comprising the following steps:

providing a cylinder of plastic material which has a uniform inside diameter of about 0.2 to 0.3 mm., the cylinder having a funnel shaped distal end;

providing a disposable pipette tip consisting of extruded tubing of teflon® or other hydrophobic material, the tubing having relatively uniform inside and outside diameters throughout its length, the inside portion of the tubing having a volume of about 0.2 to 2.0 μ l, the tubing having first and second ends;

connecting the first end of the tubing with the distal end of the cylinder by introducing the first end of the tubing into the funnel shaped distal end to achieve a tight fit;

providing a piston slidable within the cylinder, the piston being in the form of a thin wire;

inserting the second end of the tubing into a liquid sample;
and

moving the wire piston away from the sample about a 5 - 20 mm. stroke to produce a ~~0.2 to 1.2~~ μ l sample having a volume of from 0.2 to 2.0 μ l.